APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,079	01/27/2000	Hiromi Sutou	501.38112X00	9424

20457   7590   12/30/2002

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WEN, SHAOJUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/492,079	SUTOU, HIROMI
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Shaojun Wen	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>27 January 2000</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u> .

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This is a first office action in response to application filed, with the above serial number,

on January 27, 2000 in which claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-20 are therefore pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa

(hereinafter "Arakawa", USPN 5,408,610).

As per claim 1, Arakawa teaches a method of data transfer in a hierarchical network

comprising the steps of: receiving first data including an item from an upper system (col 3, line

24-29); updating attribute information (i.e. management data) corresponding to the item held in a

current system and adding second data held in the current system to the first data (col 6-7, line

60-3); and sending the first data and the second data to a lower system (col 6, line 60-3).

As per claim 2, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer further comprising the steps of:

if the item included in the received first data exists in the current system, updating the existing

item (col 3, line 34-38);

changing attribute information for the item held in the current system to a value indicative of

common data (col 3, line 58-64);

if the item does not exist in the current system, adding the item to the current system (col 3, line

39-45) ; and

changing the attribute information for the item held in the current system to a value indicative of

data which is prepared by the upper system (col 3, line 58-64).

As per claim 3, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer further comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one of edit requirements for addition and deletion of the item (col 3, line 30-

45); and

changing attribute information for the item held in the current system according to the change of

the item and item content of the current system corresponding to the item (col 3, line 61-64).

As per claim 4, Arakawa teaches a method of data transfer in a hierarchical network comprising

the steps of:

receiving an item and data stored in first data coming from a lower system (col 5, line 41-45) ;

if the item exists in a database of the current system and attribute information corresponding to

the item indicates a value managed by an upper system, reading data included in the first data

and the read data into second data (col 6-7, line 60-3); and sending the second data to the upper

system (col 7, line 2-3).

As per claim 5, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer wherein, if the attribute information corresponding to the item indicates a value not managed by the upper system, the data is stored in the current system (col 5, line 62-68).

As per claim 6, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer wherein the first data includes an operation flag indicative of either one of item addition or item deletion, and addition of the item to the current system is determined on the basis of the operation flag and information indicative of existence or absence of the item in the current system (col 5, line 55-68).

As per claim 7, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer wherein the second data holds manager system information indicative of the item is the-data associated with the current system and whether the item is processed or not is determined on the basis of the manager system information (col 5, line 65-68).

As per claim 8, Arakawa teaches a method of data transfer in a hierarchical network comprising the steps of:

receiving from a lower system an item and data included in first data and manager system information indicative of whether the item is data associated with a current system (col 3, line 24-33);

if the manager system information is data associated with the current system, updating content of an item held in the current system by use of the data (col 3, line 39-43);

if the manager system information has information indicative of another system, deleting the

information indicative of the current system (col 3, line 34-38);

forming second data by the item, the data, and the manager system information with the

information indicative of the current system deleted (col 3, line 24-45); and

sending the second data to an upper system (col 3, line 44-45).

As per claim 9, Arakawa teaches a method of data transfer in a hierarchical network comprising

the steps of: receiving first data from a lower system (col 3, line 24-29);

forming second data by an item corresponding to default information held in a current system

and data included in the first data (col 6, line 1-10); and

sending the second data to an upper system (col 6, line 1-10).

As per claim 10, Arakawa teaches a method of data transfer in a hierarchical network comprising

the steps of:

receiving first data from an upper system (col 5, line 41-45);

storing into a current system an item included in the first data, the item corresponding to default

information held in the current system (col 5, line 45-55);

storing data with the item corresponding to the default information of the current system deleted

from the first data into second data (col 5, line 55-68); and

sending the second data to a lower system (col 6, line 9-10).

As per claim 11, Arakawa teaches the method of data transfer wherein data to be sent to the upper system forms the second data when there is no more data to be sent to the lower system after deleting the item corresponding to the default information of the current system from the first data and the second data is sent to the upper system (col 6-5, line 60-3)

As per claim 12, Arakawa teaches a data transfer apparatus for use in a hierarchical network comprising:

a receiving block for receiving first data including an item from an upper system (col 5, line 41-45); a merge processing block for updating attribute information corresponding to the item and held in a current system and adding second data held in the current system to the first data (col 6, line 1-10); and a sending block for sending the first data and the second data to a lower system (col 6, line 9-10).

As per claim 13, Arakawa teaches the data transfer apparatus wherein the merge processing block updates the existing item, if the item included in the received first data exists in the current system (col 3-4, line 68-7); changes attribute information for the item held in the current system to a value indicative of common data (col 3, line 61-64); adds the item to the current system, if the item does not exist in the current system (col 5, line 45-49); and changes the attribute information for the item held in the current system to a value indicative of data which is prepared by the upper system (col 3, line 64-68).

As per claim 14, Arakawa teaches the data transfer apparatus further comprising:

an edit processing block for receiving at least one of edit requirements for addition and deletion

of the item and changing attribute information for the item held in current system according to

the change of the item and item content of the current system corresponding to the item (col 5,

line 49-68).

As per claim 15, Arakawa teaches a data transfer apparatus for use in a hierarchical network

comprising:

a receiving block for receiving an item and data stored in first data coming from a lower system

(col 3, line 24-33) ;

an update processing block for, if the item exists in a database of a current system and attribute

information corresponding to the item indicates a value managed by an upper system, reading the

data included in the first data and storing the read data into second data (col 7, line 12-19); and a

sending block for sending the second data to the upper system (col 6, line 1-10).

As per claim 16, Arakawa teaches the data transfer apparatus wherein, if the attribute

information corresponding to the item is a value indicative of common manager item, the

updating processing block stores the data into the current system (col 5, line 45-55) .

As per claim 17, Arakawa teaches the data transfer apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the

first data includes an operation flag indicative of either one of item addition or item deletion, and

the merge processing block determines whether or not to add the item to the current system on

the basis of the operation flag (col 5, line 55-68).

As per claim 18, Arakawa teaches the data transfer apparatus wherein the second data holds

manager system information indicating that the item is data associated with the current system

and the merge processing block determines whether or not to process the item on the basis of the

manager system information (col 6, line 1-10).

As per claim 19, Arakawa teaches a recording medium readable by a computer storing program

for executing the data transfer method defined in claim 1 (col 5, line 27-36).

As per claim 20, Arakawa teaches a recording medium readable by a computer storing a program

for executing the data transfer method (col 5, line 27-36).

Conclusion

3.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Tsutsui et al, Tezuka et al, Onuki and Brunet et al are cited for disclosing pertinent

information related to the claimed invention. Applicants are requested to consider the prior art

reference for relevant teachings when responding to this office action.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Shaojun Wen whose telephone number is (703)305-4874. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday (8:30-5:30). If attempts to reach the

examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached

on (703) 308-7562. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned (703) 305-9731 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Shaojun Wen

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2100

December 6, 2002

MOUSTAFA M. MEKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER